



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

RURAL BROADBAND WEEK

2021

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, broadband is a high-bandwidth transmission that enables access to high-speed internet; and broadband infrastructure capable of handling 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 20 Mbps upstream speeds is essential to handle future demand for online services; and

WHEREAS, high-speed internet is a crucial tool for North Carolinians to fully participate in today's digital society as students, workers, business owners, patients, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the adoption of online tools by North Carolinians to engage in healthcare, government, education, work, commerce, and cultural, civic, and religious activities; and

WHEREAS, digital equity means that residents in every corner of the state not only have access to broadband, but can also fairly adopt it and feel enabled to use it; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the state is rural and nearly a third of rural households lack adequate broadband infrastructure, and half of households without internet access of 100/10 Mbps are concentrated in 18 rural counties, along with two urban counties; and

WHEREAS, building broadband infrastructure in rural areas faces significant geographical challenges and costs, particularly for consumers, and requires innovative approaches by federal, state, local, and private partners; and North Carolina can overcome these obstacles with generational investments in broadband infrastructure and access, affordability, and digital literacy and enablement; and

WHEREAS, with the investment of state and federal funds, by 2025, North Carolina can achieve digital equity and lead as a top 5 state in broadband adoption, with 100/20 Mbps internet access to nearly all households; and

WHEREAS, the observance of Rural Broadband Week seeks to increase public knowledge and prompt community action to improve broadband access and close the digital divide so that all North Carolinians can live more abundant, better educated, and healthier lives; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 16-20, 2021, as "RURAL BROADBAND WEEK" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.